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MAP NOTICES.

Since the publication of the last Bulletin, the U. S. Geological Survey has issued seven additional sheets of the United States atlas. Of these, one in southern New Hampshire, known as Monadnock, represents an area of 15″ square, upon a scale of 1:62,500, with a contour interval of 20′. It is a part of the hill country of New England, where the work of erosion has not progressed nearly as far toward producing a peneplain as near the coast. Many isolated hills, differing greatly in altitude, are scattered over this area, among them Mount Monadnock, the highest in the neighborhood, which occupies a central position upon the sheet. The effect of the recent elevation and tilting of this region is shown in the cañons of many of the streams, while the still more recent invasion of the land by ice is shown in the abundance of lakes and ponds, waterfalls and rapids, and irregularities in the courses of the minor streams.

In New York are two sheets, Newcomb and Olean, the former in the Adirondacks, and the latter in the southwestern portion of the State. Both are on a scale of 1:62,500, with a contour interval of 20′. The first represents an area very similar in its physiographic features to that above described, being a region of isolated, broken hills or monadnocks, as they have been denominated by Davis, with the streams flowing mainly in deep, newly cut cañons, consequent on the recent tilting and elevation of the land, with an abundance of lakes, ponds and swamps, rapids and falls, due to the erosive action of the continental glacier.

The Olean area is a portion of the great Alleghany plateau, the westernmost member of the Appalachian mountain system, a region which was base-leveled upon a surface of a bed of hard, carboniferous sandstone, thus forming a plateau. This was raised and tilted, the tilting here being toward the west, and the subsequent erosion has gone so far as to produce deep, narrow valleys along the streams, but has had little effect upon the general level of the plateau.

In South Dakota is one sheet, Parker, representing an area of 30″ square, upon a scale of 1:125,000, with a contour interval of 20′. In the main its surface has been produced by the deposits of the great continental glacier, the southwestern part being occupied largely by an arm of the Coteau des Prairies, a plateau-like deposit of morainal material rising some 200′ above the general level. The principal streams, Vermilion and James rivers, have been in existence so short a time that they have done but little erosion; the latter stream having cut its bed only about 100′ below the general level of the country. The region abounds in swamps and lakes without outlet, the result of glacial occupation.

In Nebraska are two sheets, Grand Island and Camp Clarke, both upon a scale of 1 :125,000 and with a contour interval of 20′. The former includes a portion of the valley of Platte River, here having a breadth of upwards of 20 miles, almost as level as a billiard table. The river is represented as at low water, consisting of a number of petty trickling streamlets scattered widely over its bottom. Southeast of the river the land rises in low bluffs covered with sand hills, in which are numerous sinks. The divide between the waters of the Platte and the Republican is here within a mile or two of the former stream.

The Camp Clarke sheet represents an area in western Nebraska traversed by North Platte River, which here, even at the time of low water, is a bold stream, having a width of fully half a mile, flowing through a bottomland five or six miles in width. North of it the country rises brokenly to a high prairie five hundred feet above the river. Much of its summit is covered with small sand hills, which make the soil valueless, except for purposes of grazing. South of the river, and separating it from Pumpkin Creek, are soft sandstones, highly eroded, forming bad lands. Many of the curious rock forms in this region are well known as landmarks, among them Chimney, Castle and Steamboat rocks. South of Pumpkin Creek the land rises gradually and then abruptly to a high prairie, similar to that upon the north side of the Platte.

In California is one sheet, Mount Diablo, upon a scale of 1 :62,500, and with a contour interval of 50 . This sheet represents an area in the coast ranges east of the Bay of San Francisco and south of Sacramento River.

A special map has been published of the surroundings of Hot Springs, Arkansas, upon a scale of 1 :62,500, with a contour interval of 20 . This presents in much detail the peculiar sinuous ridges of the Ozark hills.

The war with Spain continues to furnish a stimulus to map publishers. Among the useful maps to which attention may be called is that published by the Hydrographic Office, U. S. N., entitled "The Island of Cuba," on a scale of 10 miles to 1″. This map, although upon a much smaller scale than that of the War Department, noticed in our last number, has the advantage of exhibiting at once not only the land features, but the depths of water, both off shore and in the harbors. H. G.

"*Our New Colonies—Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines, J. L. Smith, Philadelphia, 1898.*" This is a popular and cheap map, combining representations of all these islands upon one sheet.

It is astonishing how completely all interest in the gold fields of Alaska has disappeared, and it is, therefore, with a feeling akin to surprise that we are recalled to it by receiving the "Yukon Map." This map, in ten sheets, represents all that is known of the country from Cook Inlet, by way of the several Yukon trails to the United States boundary on the Yukon; the scale, 6 miles to 1″, 1898, prepared and published by the General Surveyor's Office, Department of the Interior, Ottawa. Relief is expressed by sketchy contours and by crayon shading. H. G.

The Century Atlas of the World, prepared under the Superintendence of Benjamin E. Smith, A.M., Century Company, New York, 1897. 4to. Map Plates 117, with Indices.

The question is often asked, "What is the best atlas of the world?" While it may not be strictly correct to answer "The Century," certainly this is as good as the best, especially for American use. Of the whole number of plates, 53, or nearly one-half, are devoted to the United States, 5 to Canada, 9 to Central and South America, 27 to Europe, 9 to Asia, and an equal number to Africa and Australia together. The remainder of the Atlas is devoted to historical maps of Europe, Asia Minor and the United States, and to physical maps of the world.

The maps are well executed, clear, legible, leaving little or nothing to be desired on that score. They are thoroughly up to date and sufficiently full of detail for all ordinary requirements. The maps are well indexed. H. G.

Physiographic Types, by Henry Gannett. Topographic Atlas of the United States. Folio 1, U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D. C., 1898.

We welcome Folio 1 of the Topographic Atlas of the United States, recently published by the United States Geological Survey, for it marks a distinct step in advance in educational geography. Hitherto the teachers of physiography in High Schools, Academies and Colleges have been unable to make the best use of the valuable maps of the United States Geological Survey, because not readily available, and because when secured no adequate descriptive text accompanied the maps. Now we have a selected series of ten maps, representing typical and simple land forms of the United States, brought together in one folio, with good text descriptions. Furthermore, the folio is uniform in size and style with the geological folios, a matter of help to librarians and teachers having to care for large collections.

The folio opens with a summary of the history of map making by the United States Geological Survey, followed by a description of a topographic map, under the headings, scale, sheets, contents, water features, culture and land features. The sheets selected for description are the following: Fargo, North Dakota-Minnesota; Charleston, West Virginia; Caldwell, Kansas; Palmyra, Virginia; Mount Shasta, California; Eagle, Wisconsin; Sun Prairie, Wisconsin; Donaldsonville, Louisiana; Boothbay, Maine; Atlantic City, New Jersey. "The ten sheets here described illustrate the operation of water and ice in the production of topographic forms, under simple conditions. The first three show different stages of progress in aqueous erosion—the beginning, middle, and a late stage. The fourth sheet shows how the process of aqueous erosion, having been carried far toward completion, may commence again. The fifth sheet shows the growth of a volcanic mountain and the commencement of its destruction. The sixth and seventh sheets illustrate glacial deposition; the eighth, river deposition; and the ninth and tenth, the formation of coast lines."

The examples selected are simple, clear and extremely valuable. Although primarily for use in the secondary schools and colleges, we know from experience that many of the maps can be made of great value in the graded schools. For instance, the Donaldsonville sheet, selected to illustrate river flood plains, will, when carefully studied, give children of eleven and twelve years ideas of the possibilities of floods and their effects such as any amount of reading would not so emphasize.

To be of greatest service the maps must, however, be studied individually at desks, for topographic maps cannot be used readily as wall maps.

We are glad to note that a second folio on the Physiography of Texas is in press, and a third under way. We hope that the response of teachers and superintendents may warrant the continuation of the series, and that these folios may soon be found in all our best schools.

The folio thus reviewed may be secured for twenty-five cents from the Chief Clerk of the U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.

R. E. D.